xmxmxmxmxmxmxmx 473-8186

New address: Route 7
Frederick, Md. 21701

October 26, 1967

Dr. James B. Rhoads
Acting Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

Your letter of October 23 strongly suggests that documents released for research are withdrawn once I express an interest in them. The withholding of the Griffin-Hubert memoranda of March 20 and April 1, 1964, are the second and third such recent cases.

The further inference exists that someone is carefully studying what I order copies of for, normally, once documents are released for research, there would seem to be no reason for going over them again after I request the copies. That should be automatic. Especially with the vast backlog of materials to be examined does it seem unusual that documents I request are reexamined and then withheld.

In these three cases, the documents denied me once I expressed an interest in them had just been released. Each is inconsistent with the official government position on the assassination. The Griffin-Hubert memoranda further are inconsistent with each other. It is an unavoidable conclusion that the real reason for these ex post facto determinations is to avoid embarrassment to the government.

The reason alleged in this case is that the identities of informants might be disclosed or "future investigations" might be "jeopardized". This investigation, officially, was concluded more than three years ago, thus the second part would seem to be automatically excluded. With regard to the first, I believe we are well past the point where the protection of the identities of stoolpigeons is more important than access to the truth about the assassination, if, indeed, that guideline is, in fact, applicable in this case.

I strongly protest this reexamination of the documents I request and their subsequent denial simply because I ask for copies. And I renew my request for them and the earlier Liebeler memorandum similarly denied.

With regard to the Redlich-Liebeler memos of July 22, 1964, they most assuredly do exist, were in the box of files I examined when I marked what I wanted Xeroxed, and my notes indicate the contents as my letter of October 12, 1967, describes them, "relating to General Walker and Cubans". I renew my request for these documents because they do exist and have been released. Again, their content is not consistent with the official position. I believe this makes it more important that they be located and copied for me.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg